

REMARKS

The present application is a divisional of U.S. Application No.: 09/493,677.

I. Introduction

Claims 1, 15, 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33 are independent claims.

II. Amendments

Claims 3, 10-14 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 4-9, 15 and 17 have been amended to more particularly recite that which Applicants regard as the invention therein.

Claims 22-33 are newly added.

No new matter has been added.

III. New Claims 22-33

New claims 22-25 are dependent on independent claim 1, new claim 26 is dependent on claim 6 which is dependent on claim 1, and new claim 27 is dependent on independent claim 15. As a dependent claim incorporates all of the limitations of its respective base claims, new claims 22-27 are patentable at least for the same reasons as amended independent claims 1 or 15.

New claims 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33 are independent claims and new claim 31 is dependent on new independent claim 30. These claims are considered to recite features and combinations not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and, hence are considered to be patentable.

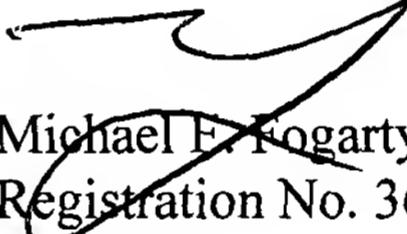
IV. Conclusion

The above application is considered to be in condition for allowance, an early notification thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve any formal issues the may prevent an early notice of allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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